

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 32 (*Cancelled*)

33. (*Currently amended*) A process for preparing irbesartan comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a solution of 2-butyl-3-[2'-(1-trityl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl methyl]-1,3-diazaspiro[4.4]non-1-ene-4-one in a water miscible solvent;
- b) acidifying the solution;
- c) neutralizing the solution and separating the trityl alcohol, whereby a second solution is obtained
- d) acidifying the second solution;
- e) cooling the acidified second solution; and
- f) recovering irbesartan.

34. (*Currently amended*) The process of claim 33, wherein the water miscible solvent in step a is acetone.

35. (*Original*) The process of claim 33, wherein the second solution is cooled to about 0°C to about (-4°C).

36 - 42. (*Cancelled*)